

Automated Commercial Environment—Requirements Recommendation

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Number:	ENT-001
Requestor:	Trade Coalition ¹
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Requirement

Release: ACE should provide for widely available release of cargo on minimal data (Track 4). Minimal data consists of the information elements needed to answer the following three questions:

- (1) Does Customs have the information needed to determine whether the merchandise is admissible?
- (2) Does Customs have the information needed to know whether the shipment should be examined?
- (3) Who is responsible for completion of entry and payment of duties?

Characteristics of a release program based on minimal data:

- a. Release on minimal data should be broadly available and data requirements should be uniform and predictable.
- b. Minimal data may vary by commodity to meet the requirements of other government agencies; where such additional data elements are necessary, they should be published prior to imposition of the reporting requirement.
- c. ACE should allow for importers that qualify under published objective standards to file minimal data by registering with Customs without prior approval, but Customs would retain the authority to disqualify the filer for specific cause.
- d. Minimal data release policy should be applicable to all modes of transport.
- e. An importer that has the right to obtain release on submission of minimal data, should have the option of obtaining release on the submission of complete data.

Business Need

To facilitate minimal data requirements at release, ACE should allow for a variable number of data elements to reflect a variety of circumstances. In some cases, all release declaration data fields will be required; in other cases a subset of data fields will be required. In either case, the importer should have the option of transmitting summary data at the time the release declaration is filed.

In order to avoid redundant transmissions of data from importers, required fields may be populated from information contained in the importer's ACE account profile.

Technical Need

See business need, above.

¹ Richard M. Belanger, ERP III Letter to Stuart Seidel, April 10, 2001.

Benefits

Reduction in business cycle times and reliability of supply chain will create increased business efficiencies and reduction in costs resulting in greater competitiveness for US businesses and reduced costs for consumers.

Risks

The subcommittee will have to wait for publication of the Treasury Department study to help determine the data that will actually be required.

This proposal does not address the need for an efficient 'release control' system. As indicated in Customs response of March 16, 2001, such a feature is essential and will be required in the ACE design. Essential data to accomplish this function will be required, in some fashion. This issue relates specifically as to whether 6 or 10 digit Tariff numbers are required at release and whether quantity and total value are needed. Customs does not anticipate that this would require more data elements than are currently required but, as we work to define what "minimal data" at release means, be assured that we will insist that the data is sufficient to provide such a system. Customs May 10, 2001 response to Richard Belanger. However, the requirement for sufficient data elements to support a release control function in ACE (to compare release data with subsequently filed summary data) is not an absolute requirement in all instances. For example, minimal data is collected for NCAP/P releases. In addition, Customs recognizes that in some cases the "Trade's records can serve the "release control" function required by Customs." June 27-28, 2001 Meeting Report (Entry Process Subcommittee, page 4, Subcommittee Recommendation 10). Therefore, release control is not an absolute bar to minimal data for release.

Related Subcommittees

Accounts.

Priority: Critical ☒

High ☐

Medium ☐

Low ☐